

American Meteorological Society, vol. 33, No. 7, Sept. 1952, pp. 279-285.

5. J. Namias, "Further Aspects of Month-to-Month Persistence in the Mid-Troposphere," *Bulletin of the*

American Meteorological Society, vol. 35, No. 3, March 1954, pp. 112-117.

6. E. J. Aubert, "The Weather and Circulation of May 1950," *Monthly Weather Review*, vol. 78, No. 5, May 1950, pp. 81-83.

Weather Notes

TORNADOES AT BLACKWELL, OKLA., MAY 25, 1955

On Wednesday, May 25, the wind was east-southeast all day. At approximately 4 p. m. the barometer started to fall from 30.05 inches. By 9:00 p. m. the barometer was steady at 29.64 and started to rise. The clouds that were approaching from the west were not bad looking at all. When the storm hit Blackwell (at 9:27 p. m.) my barometer was reading 29.72 and by 4 p. m. on the 26th it was back to 30.00.

The maximum temperature for the 25th was 78° F. I had set the thermometers at 7 p. m. with the temperature at observation time reading 74° as the clouds seemed to gather in the west. The temperature remained at 74° until the storm struck and went to 80° which was also the 24-hr. maximum on the 26th. I noted that the recording thermometers at the Journal and Consolidated Gas Office both showed a sharp rise to 80° at the time of the storm, 9:27 p. m.

Hailstones that measured 2¼ inches fell in my yard just before the storm struck. A friend picked up some in his yard that measured 2½ inches in diameter on a steel scale. Jumping from the north porch of his house into the yard to pick up hailstones, he happened to look around the corner of the house to the south and saw the solid black wall approaching. He took refuge in the hallway of his house. He and two others tell me that they did not hear any noise at all.

One lady who took cover under a stairway ended up one-half block away—still under

the stairway, which was all that was left of her two-story house. She tells me the storm was a black wall and the lightning went up from the ground to the cloud—not from the cloud to the ground.

I stood in the door of my storm cellar and watched the storm go through town. The wind at my place, nine blocks west of the main path, was a dead calm. The storm sounded like a roaring freight train going through open country, only louder. As the funnel was directly east of me, the fire up near the top of the funnel looked like a child's Fourth of July pin wheel. It was something I will not forget for a long time.

I walked out to my back fence after the main storm passed and was listening to the noise die away when all at once the noise came back clearly. I ran back to the cave and said, "It's coming back." Then I looked again and there was a smaller one in the air about one-half mile behind the first one. It came down North First which is about six blocks east of my home, and about five blocks west of the main storm path.

Two miles south of Tonkawa along the Salt Fork River there was evidence of the storm starting at the mouth of the Chikaskia and Salt Fork. On the west side of the Chikaskia it started north along the river and got bigger as it went.

This is the fourth storm I have been through here at Blackwell. Always before they have come in from the west, cut a path, hit the river and broken up.—

Floyd C. Montgomery, Observer, Blackwell 2, Okla.